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STEEL COMPANY OWNER CHARGED WITH FRAUD
IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARKANSAS RAZORBACK
STADIUM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

SAVANNAH, GA: Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced that the federal grand jury sitting in Savannah has returned an indictment against a Statesboro Steel Company owner, charging him with fraud.

Donnie D. Rushing, owner of Southern Steel Fabricators, Inc., was charged in a fourteen-count indictment with Conspiracy in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, Bank Fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344, Money Laundering in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956, and Making a False Statement to a Federally Insured Financial Institution in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1014. The Indictment alleges that Southern Steel Fabricators, Inc. was a subcontractor on the University of Arkansas Razorback Stadium project in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The indictment charges that in 2001, Mr. Rushing executed a scheme to obtain money from Eagle Bank and Trust, located in Statesboro, Georgia, by knowingly presenting fictitious invoices to the bank for payments to which he was not entitled. The indictment also alleges that Mr. Rushing attempted

to conceal certain financial transactions from Eagle Bank and Trust in order to defraud the bank and receive money to which he was not entitled. These charges carry a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000,000.

Wood emphasized that an indictment is only an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation which led to the indictment was conducted by Special Agent Marcus Kirkland and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant United States Attorney Brian F. McEvoy.

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